



# COVENANT

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Order of Worship – 17 September 2017

**Theme for the Year: "What Would Jesus Say About Your Church?" (Rev 3:22)**

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	40 - <i>Stand Up, and Bless the Lord</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	Mark 10:13-31
Hymn	TP 78:1-8
Tithes & Offering	
**† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 78:1-8
Hymn	563 - <i>Lord, Speak to Me</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Set Your Hope in God"
*Closing Hymn	525 - <i>Trust and Obey</i>
*Benediction & <i>Threefold Amen</i>	
Silent Prayer & Postlude	
Announcements	* <i>Congregation standing</i>

† Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
And to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be:  
World without end. Amen.

†† Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church meets every Sunday at 10:00 am  
at 47 Davis Road, Attadale, Western Australia

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## How to Have a Meaningful Conversation about Same-Sex Marriage

### *Giving a Reason for Your Beliefs at the Risk of Offense*

Often the Christian will be called upon to articulate his beliefs to other people.

With boldness, he gives a defense of his faith - to be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks him about God (1 Peter 3:15).

Some topics are easier than others.

When it comes to the issue of same-sex marriage (SSM), it is becoming more difficult.

How do Christians speak about this topic? How do we explain what the Bible says without turning people off? How can we tell them that God instituted marriage to be between one man and one woman, without offending them?

We can't. People will be offended. But we should not be ashamed of what the Bible says.

But while we are not ashamed of the Bible, we should also show from our Biblical defense of marriage that we love gay people.

They are our neighbors and we are to love them. They are also created in God's image. Defending historic marriage does not mean we hate gay people. On the contrary, we would love them to come to Christ.

However, it is important for us to know other relevant ways of defending the historical institution of marriage, which do not contradict but strengthen the biblical position.

This serves to create meaningful conversations that may lead to a greater receptivity of the gospel. What are some of these ways?

### *Dismantle False Arguments Against a Solely Historic Marriage*

Supporters of SSM argue that marriage is a right. While it is a right, there have

always been laws limiting whose right it is - they must be an unmarried living human adult who wants to marry another unmarried living human adult of the opposite sex. Love never justified marriage to a minor, an animal, a dead person, or more than one person.

Gay people have never been denied this right to marry another unmarried living human adult of the opposite sex.

They also argue that denying them this institution denies them the ability to have a commitment with another. This is untrue. Many people commit to one another in ways not called marriage.

They also argue that married couples have certain government benefits, that unmarried gay couples do not have access to. This is true, as these benefits concern the raising of children, which gay people cannot have with one another biologically.

### *Argue for the Social Purpose of Historic Marriage*

Love alone was not the reason for marriage. Marriages up until the early 20th century were not predominantly about love. People did not marry the person they loved; rather they loved the person they married.

Marriage had a historic and social purpose and this is unchanged. Marriage has always been for the furtherance of human society.

Even from a biblical standpoint - God instituted marriage not only for mutual companionship of Adam and Eve, but that they would be fruitful and multiply.

Edward Westermack, an anthropologist, has, in *The History of Human Marriages*, explained that marriages have always been between men and women from the earliest of times, which purpose was to serve the family and society.

A family unit comprising of a father and a mother raising their children was the building block of society. This, then, was the sociological purpose of marriage.

And this is also the biblical view - marriage was instituted not only for mutual help and companionship, but because God desired a godly seed that formed a godly nation/church.

But do a father and mother really matter in a family unit? What about single parent families?

It would be foolhardy to ignore the published data that both parents do matter in a family.

While there are exceptions, there is conclusive evidence that children without fathers are less likely to succeed in studies, more likely to have emotional problems, less likely to have empathy, less confident, and more likely to go into crime.

According to Randy Hicks, who served on the US Supreme Court Commission on Children, Marriage and Family Law, "A good, compassionate and just society always comes to the aid of fatherless or motherless children. But a good, compassionate, and just society never intentionally creates fatherless and motherless children."

Dr Kyle Pruett, founder of Yale Conference on Fatherhood and professor at Yale Medical School, wrote in his book

*Why Father Care is as Essential as Mother Care for Your Child*, that fathers matter because "fathers do not mother."

Same-sex marriages and families would intentionally deprive a child of either a mother or a father.

If the social and public purpose of marriage is to raise children to be part of society with the input from both a father and a mother, then society suffers if marriage is in any other way.

### *Conclusion*

These arguments will certainly fail to convince aggressive SSM proponents.

Their cries of "Love Wins" and "Marriage Equality" are emotionally charged but based on 2 false assumptions - that love is the most important reason for marriage and there is no equality if there is no same-sex marriage.

On the contrary, many marriages have not started based on love (but sustained by love), and there is already equality of rights for any living unmarried adult who wants to marry.

But may these arguments bolster your understanding and preparedness to defend your beliefs. ~ Pastor

*For more information, read The Cultural Argument Against Gay Marriage by Randy Hicks, published 1 October 2006 in "By Faith," the online magazine of the Presbyterian Church in America. Link - [goo.gl/sx2XE2](http://goo.gl/sx2XE2)*



## **Westminster Larger Catechism**

Q. 169. How hath Christ appointed bread and wine to be given and received in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper?

A. Christ hath appointed the ministers of his Word, in the administration of this Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, to set apart the bread and wine from common use, by the word of institution, thanksgiving, and prayer; to take and break the bread, and to give both the bread and the wine to the communicants: who are, by the same appointment, to take and eat the bread, and to drink the wine, in thankful remembrance that the body of Christ was broken and given, and his blood shed for them.

# Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (17.9.17)	Next Week (24.9.17)
Speaker	Hock Chin Lee	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Jacob Woo	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Nancy Lim	Jabez Huang
Welcomers	Putri Harapan & Dolphin Wai	Josephine Austin & Wendy Gong
Offering Stewards	Micah Ching*, Ian Read* John Tan, Chris Budiman	Ken Chong*, David Pang* Lye Heng Chua, Ken Hong
Ushers	Eva Ng, Rebecca Lee	Joyce Ng, Jesslyn Leow
Kitchen Duties	Sarah Siew*, Lydia Orchard Ken Hong	Adeline Ng*, Merilyn Woo Julian Poon
PA Duty	Ken Hong	Joel Chua
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>22 September 2017</i>	<i>29 September 2017</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Ian Tay	Jerome Ng

## Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshippers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. We welcome Pastor Hock Chin Lee of Life B-P Church (Singapore) to our pulpit.
3. Next week's message: "They Returned Back to Danger" (Acts 14:21-28).
4. Next week's Junior Worship message: "Melchizedek - The Strange Man Who Shows Christ" (Hebrews 7:1-10). Speaker: Xuan Tee.
5. Vacation Bible School. 2-4 October 2017. Please hand in registration forms to Jenni Budiman today. Volunteers still needed - please see Ken Chong or Valerie.
6. There will be a meeting for all VBS volunteers after worship service today.
7. Helpers needed for painting & flooring work on 23 & 30 Sept - see Ken Hong.
8. JF and TF are in recess and will resume on 14 October.
9. Congratulations to Jeff and Kim Chong on the birth of their daughter Valetta.

### Appointments for the Week

WED	10:00 am	Craft Group
FRI	7:30 pm	CBI & Prayer Meeting
SAT	7:30 pm	Ladies' Bible Study
SUN	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship Service

### Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$3,509.30 (\*DD - \$200.00, #743 - \$22.50, #744 - \$500.00, #745 - \$195.00). Missions Fund - \$180.00. Building Fund - \$15,800.00 (\*DD- \$300.00, #560 - \$500.00, #561 - \$15,000.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$19,489.30. Attendance - 161.

### Building Fund to Date & Bank Account Details

Available Building Fund \$73,707.45  
 Last Week's Collection \$15,800.00  
 Total \$89,507.45  
*Outstanding Loan - \$396,000.00*  
*Amount Still Needed \$306,492.55*

General Fund:  
 BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316942  
 Missions Fund:  
 BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316950  
 Building Fund:  
 BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316969

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.  
 Deacons: **Ken Chong** 0402 553 313. **LH Chua** 0435 601 373. **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682.  
**Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206.



# C O V E N A N T

## Bible-Presbyterian Church

*Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom*

### Message Forecast for October - December 2017\*

*"What Would Jesus Say About Your Church?" (Rev 3:22)*

#### Lord's Day Worship Service:

OCT	Title and Text	Speaker
1**	Controversy and Gospel (Acts 15:1-12)	MC
8	Solving Controversy (Acts 15:13-21)	MC
15	Disseminating the Solution (Acts 15:22-35)	MC
22	Confirming and Establishing (Acts 15:36-16:5)	MC
29	TBA	G Lock
NOV		
5**	A Shut Door, an Open Heart, a Locked Prison (Acts 16:6-24)	MC
12	Appealing to God and Man (Acts 16:25-40)	MC
19	Responses to the Word (Acts 17:1-21)	MC
26	Too Smart for Our Own Good (Acts 17:22-34)	MC
DEC		
3**	Help in the Ministry (Acts 18:1-17)	MC
10	Training a Preacher (Acts 18:18-28)	MC
17	Jesus Really Matters (Acts 19:1-20)	MC
24	Christmas Gospel Meeting	MC
31	When Our Idols Are Threatened (Acts 19:21-41)	MC

\* Subject to change

\*\* Lord's Supper

#### Adult Bible Class:

"Bible Survey" (cont.)